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RELEASED IN FULL

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ORIGIN ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AMAD-01	A-00	ACQ-01	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	UTED-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIG-04	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00
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SOURCE: KODAKA.005009

DRAFTED BY: ARA/AND:MMEIGS:MAM -- 12/04/98 X7L7L5

APPROVED BY: ARA/AND:PCHICOLA

NONE:NONE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 225053

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE

SUBJECT: CARACAS ELECTIONS: PROVISIONAL PRESS GUIDANCE

-- SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED PROTECT ACCORDINGLY

1. (SBU) DEPARTMENT PROVIDES FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS
GUIDANCE:

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VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS

BACKGROUND: ON SUNDAY VENEZUELAN VOTED IN PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS. THE WINNER WILL BE INAUGURATED ON FEBRUARY 2.
THE RACE WAS TOO CLOSE TO CALL, WITH INDEPENDENT POPULIST
HUGO CHAVEZ AND INDEPENDENT HENRIQUE SALAS ROMER SEEN AS
THE STRONGEST IN A FIELD OF 12 CANDIDATES.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. VIEW OF THE VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS?

A: WE CONGRATULATE THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE AND STRONGLY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
DATE/CASE ID: 18 JUN 2007 200504156

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SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ESTABLISHING CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT.

(IF HUGO CHAVEZ IS ELECTED)

A: THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE HAVE MADE THEIR CHOICE. AS I JUST SAID, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THEIR NEW LEADER AND HIS ADMINISTRATION. WE CONGRATULATE MR. CHAVEZ AND TRUST - THAT HE WILL FAITHFULLY CARRY OUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES CONFERED BY THE VENEZUELAN CONSTITUTION.

(IN THE EVENT OF VIOLENCE OR DEMONSTRATIONS)

VIOLENCE

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE VIOLENCE?

A: WE STRONGLY CONDEMN VIOLENCE, WHICH IS AN ASSAULT ON
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THE PEACEFUL DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. WE TRUST THAT THE VENEZUELAN SECURITY FORCES WILL ACT VIGOROUSLY AND WITH FULL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONTROL THE SITUATION.

Q: DO YOU EXPECT A MILITARY COUP?

A: THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY AND WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THAT TRADITION. THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONS OF THE AMERICAS, AMONG WHICH VENEZUELA HAS LONG BEEN A LEADING EXAMPLE, HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD NOT TOLERATE THE OVERTURN OF A DEMOCRACY BY ANY ARMED FORCE.

2. (SBU) SEPTTEL WILL PROVIDE PROVISIONAL GUIDANCE ON VISA MATTERS.

ALBRIGHT

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